

# Courier

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## Homelessness Summit addresses county issues

Anne is a former school teacher with a master's degree. She is bipolar. She is also homeless. Bill is a Vietnam veteran and a recovering alcoholic. He's living in the woods with his bags of medicine, battling hepatitis, post-traumatic stress disorder and paranoid schizophrenia.

These are two faces of homelessness that community leaders are trying to find solutions for as Fairfax County develops a 10-year plan to end homelessness.

According to the latest data, more than 2,000 people in Fairfax County are homeless, of which more than 700 are children.

The Board of Supervisors convened a

Community Summit to End Homelessness on April 7 at Freddie Mac's corporate headquarters in McLean. More than 300 participants from the county and the country discussed the multi-layered issue, which includes affordable housing, health care, wages, language and jobs.

***A real solution will require enormous creativity and innovative thinking.***

Conversations from

the summit will help develop the 10-year plan to end homelessness that the Community Council on Homelessness is preparing for the Board of Supervisors to adopt later this year. The 10-year plan is part of a national effort that more than

*See Summit, page 2*

## Oakton begins a library

The diverse assortment of attendees at the Oakton Library groundbreaking was almost like a scene from a Dr. Seuss book: there were elected officials, families, men and women in uniform, dancers, a best-selling author and a dog.

Despite the rain, an estimated 250 people took part in the April 8 event. The county's public safety honor guard presented the colors, introduced by Library Direc-



tor and master of ceremonies **Sam Clay**. Supervisor **Linda Smyth** welcomed the crowd, which was celebrating the first-ever library to be built in Providence District. In his remarks, Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly** explained the long history behind the public-private partnership that produced the new branch.

**David Baldacci**, an Oakton resident and author

*See Library, page 3*

For more information about ending homelessness, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless).

Chairman Connolly addresses Homelessness Summit.



*Summit, from page 1*

200 communities are participating in, following guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In his opening remarks, Board of Supervisors Chairman **Gerald E. Connolly** reflected on a recent visit to a hypothermia shelter, where he met Anne and Bill. "What struck many volunteers was the humanity of homeless people – that in sharing a meal, a quiet game or a late night conversation, we could no longer think of them as 'the homeless' but rather, as individuals with hopes and demons," Connolly said. "As the guests at the hypothermia shelter venue so often reminded me, 'they are homeless, not hopeless' and their hope is synchronized with ours – to make homelessness a thing of the past."

Connolly emphasized that government alone cannot solve this problem. "A real solution will require enormous creativity and innovative thinking," he said.

"There are many reasons why people end up on the streets," said **Eugene McQuade**, president of Freddie Mac. "All they want is a room of their own with the hope and dignity that come with it."

One of the most pressing challenges is providing affordable housing. In Fairfax County, an individual must earn \$22.25/hour, or \$46,280 annually, to afford an average-priced rental unit. Though the county has preserved nearly 900 affordable housing units in two years, the homeless still struggle.

To help frame the issue with new ideas, representatives from Chicago, San Francisco, New York City and Columbus, Ohio, presented strategies and stories to help Fairfax County. In addition to those perspectives, two national speakers delivered remarks: **Nan Roman**, president of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and **Bart Harvey**, chairman and CEO of Enterprise Community Partners. The summit highlighted the cost of homelessness. Nationally, the average cost of placing the children of a homeless family in foster care is more than \$47,000, while the average annual cost for a permanent housing subsidy and supportive services for a family of equal size is \$9,000.

"The cost of not doing anything is prohibitive on your medical, health, shelter, foster care and other systems, let alone the human cost," Harvey said.

After breakout sessions where participants talked about county solutions, Connolly concluded the day's events with a call to action. Among the action items are to "set heroic goals" and ask why ending homelessness isn't achievable in Fairfax, which has a population 1 million and 2,000 homeless; in contrast, San Francisco has a population of 700,000 with 10,000 homeless. He suggested that it's important to talk about homelessness as a moral issue and as an economic issue. Finally, the county community needs a plan that is outcome-oriented, saves money for taxpayers, is housing-focused, includes living wages and does not rely on government alone, but on partnerships with all segments of the community.

For more information about ending homelessness, including presentations and pictures, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless). ■

## Vacation time is here

As we get closer to the summer season, we all think of one word – VACATION! Before you leave on that well-deserved get away, remember to let everyone know that you will be away from the office. It's easy to do using your voice mail message and the "Out of Office" tool on your e-mail. In fact, it is county policy that if you will be away from the office for more than one day for any reason, you must indicate this on your voice mail and e-mail. Both voice mail and e-mail messages should provide an alternate contact for assistance during normal business hours.

This is just one of the standards for using your county voice mail and e-mail. To find out all of the county policies and procedures and for sample out-of-office messages, visit the Infoweb at [infoweb/cex/commstrategy/standards/complying.htm](http://infoweb/cex/commstrategy/standards/complying.htm). Still have questions? Send an e-mail to [commstrategy@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:commstrategy@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711. ■



*Library, from page 1*

of bestselling thrillers, including "Absolute Power," which was made into a Clint Eastwood film, surprised the audience by reading a letter from the governor in honor of the Oakton Library groundbreaking. Baldacci also told how important libraries were to him as a child growing up in Richmond. "Libraries helped me see the whole world," he said. He also dispelled some of the glamour of being an author by saying that his daughter "thinks I sign books all day for a living."

Entertainment was provided by Blaze, the Flint Hill Middle School dance team, and food was donated by local restaurants. Paws for Reading, a program that will be offered once the new library branch opens, made an appearance with a black Labrador. The program helps children with reading difficulties by encouraging them to read to a friendly, non-judgmental, four-legged listener.

Following comments, entertainment and refreshments, the audience was invited outside for a "ceremonial" groundbreaking due to the rainy weather. Still, dignitaries, community leaders and children lined up with shovels.

With the excitement at the ceremony, it's no surprise the new branch is going to be something special.

The approximately 17,000 square-foot library will feature state-of-the-art amenities, along with a collection of more than 100,000 books and other materials. As at other library branches, customers will be able to access cyberspace using free wireless Internet access.

Oakton will be one the county's two new "green" library branches. The building will feature recycled materials, natural daylight throughout much of the building and water-conserving plumbing fixtures, such as dual-flush commodes and automatic faucets.

The Oakton Library will help relieve some of the burden on the Patrick Henry Library in neighboring Vienna, which is one of the busiest of the smaller branches.

Two years ago, voters approved a bond referendum to finance the construction of the new library, which is expected to cost \$9.2 million. The branch will be located at the corner of Hunter Mill Road and Lynnhaven Place in Oakton. Construction is expected to be completed by next fall. ■

**You can find more information about county libraries at**  
<http://infoweb/library>  
 or  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)



Top row, from left to right: Library Director Sam Clay; State Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, State Delegates Stephen Shannon and Mark Sickles; author David Baldacci; Chairman Gerald E. Connolly; Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth. Bottom row: "Groundbreaking" crowd.

# Contests set for three EAC groups

The Employees Advisory Council (EAC) election campaign is underway and includes races for representatives in three groups: Groups 4, 5, and 9. Employees must return ballots by interoffice or U.S. mail by close of business May 11.

The following candidates are running in the indicated groups.

♦ Group 4 (Park Authority, Community & Recreation Services, McLean Community Center, Reston Community Center, Purchasing & Supply Management and Vehicle Services) candidates are **Steven Baker** and **Patricia Johnson**.

♦ Group 5 (Administration for Human Services, Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, Civil Service Commission, Housing & Community Development, Human Rights Commission, Planning Commission, Planning and Zoning, Systems Management for Human Services, and Transportation) candidates are **Anita Baker** and **Augusta Jackson**.

♦ Group 9 (Sheriff's Office-C Pay Scale employees, Circuit Court & Records, Commonwealth Attorney's Office, General District Court and Ju-

venile and Domestic Relations District Court) candidates are **Christopher Heflin** and **Monica Meeks**.

The following candidates are unopposed and will not be included in the election: **Sarah Goldman**, Group 2 (F Pay Scale Employees of Fire & Rescue Department-F Pay Scale Employees); **Stella Norman**, Group 10 (Community Services Board, Alcohol and Drug Services, Mental Health Services, Mental Retardation Services); and **Paula Ferrer**, Group 11 (S Pay Scale Employees of Fire & Rescue, Police and Sheriff's Office).

## Voting information

Ballots were mailed to employees' home addresses in all of the voting groups during the week of April 17. Ballot packages contain statements from the candidates and an addressed, stamped envelope that is to be mailed to the Department of Human Resources with the completed ballot.

Employees must return ballots by interoffice or U.S. mail to be received by close of business May 11. Ballots will be counted May 12 and winners announced in the May 26 *Courier*.

If you have questions or need special accommodations, please contact **Bob Fitzpatrick** at 703-324-3306, TTY 703 222-7314, or e-mail at [robert.fitzpatrick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:robert.fitzpatrick@fairfaxcounty.gov). ■

## Campaign Statements

### Group 4

**Steven Baker**, *Park Authority*

I want to thank you all for letting me serve as your EAC Group 4 Representative for the past two years. I have tried to keep you informed on issues as they develop and have responded to the concerns I have received from many of you. The current EAC in the past year has provided much change in the way we focus our efforts which began with the development of a Vision and Mission Statement and a Strategic Plan. I have seen a lot of change in the way we communicate to all employees and have made great efforts to bring us all together to be one strong clear voice. I have been part of an EAC that is working together to provide county employees a clear voice through effective representation, responsible leadership and relentless advocacy. We need to keep this momentum going in order to effect change for county employees. I ask for your support and vote in this election once again.

**Patricia Johnson**, *Park Authority*

If elected, I will be a dedicated and energetic member of the EAC who will be devoted to the rights and concerns of all Fairfax County employees. I will give generously of my time in an ef-

fort to ensure that the EAC's mission is fulfilled and compatible with the overall policies, rules and procedures of Fairfax County government. My main focus will be workplace equity and the Pay for Performance issues. I welcome the opportunity to represent you!

### Group 5

**Anita Baker**, *Department of Administration for Human Services*

I have had the pleasure to serve as your EAC Representative the past four years. My first objective was to provide a two-way communication with employees so you can be better informed and so I can better understand what your concerns are. I have not only brought those concerns to the county executive and the Board of Supervisors, but I have presented solutions for changing the parts of our system that are broken. During the past year, while also serving as Chairperson you have seen many changes and products of the EAC. To name a few: changes in the grievance process and the Civil Service Commission hearing process; an employee contest that resulted in a new EAC Logo; the development of a Strategic Plan which included a Vision and Mission Statement. Most recently I have held employee meetings to discuss issues with salary increases for general county employees. Vote for me and I promise to continue working for a fair and equitable workplace that encourages and rewards excellence in public service.

**Augusta Jackson**, *Department of Administration for Human Services*

I'm running for the EAC to give workers a real voice that is truly representative. I belong to the newly formed Fairfax County Employee Association. This organization is critical if we are to obtain the benefits enjoyed by county workers who are organized. We need to do more than tinker with PFP; it needs a serious overhaul. We more than humbly ask for a small raise; we need a fair wage. The EAC is a perfect forum for us to use to make our concerns heard. But unless it is truly representative, it will be part of the problem, not the solution.

### Group 9

**Christopher Heflin**, *Sheriff's Office*

To the represented members of the EAC Group 9, I am excited about the opportunity to serve as your elected representative. Recently, I celebrated my 20th year with the Fairfax Sheriff's Office, and I'm proud to say that for the majority of my career I have been involved in employee advocacy. Having served prior on the EAC, I represented members in various issues, from grievances to job reclassification and received letters of appreciation for my work. Since then, I have remained an advocate and believe more so than ever in the need for a represented workforce.

**Monica Meeks**, *Sheriff's Office*

I have been an employee of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office for four years. I have a total of seven years in the field of law enforcement. I am currently assigned to the Fairfax County Circuit Court and serve as the local EAC representative for my section. It is my desire to be an agency spokesperson between the sections covered by Group 9 and the Fairfax County government. I have a background in public speaking and am working on a graduate program in public affairs. Thank you for your nomination. ■

**Don't forget  
Trailfest on  
Saturday,  
May 6**

**Celebrating the  
Cross County  
Trail.**

**Ribbon-cuttings  
and festivities  
will occur in five  
districts in which  
the 40-mile trail is  
located.**

**Go to  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/cct)  
or call  
703-324-8662,  
TTY 711, for  
detailed  
information.**

**You always can find more information about the EAC  
on the EAC Web site at [www.fceac.org](http://www.fceac.org).**



## Focus on Benefits



# CIGNA HMO introduces new vision provider

Effective May 1, CIGNA's HMO plan will introduce a new provider and network for routine vision services, Vision Service Plan (VSP). VSP replaces Allied Vision, the current provider of vision benefits for CIGNA.

As one of the nation's largest providers of eye-care services, VSP will provide employees and dependents participating in the CIGNA HMO many convenient locations for vision services, as well as a wide selection of frames and contact lenses. VSP also will administer all vision care claims for CIGNA members.

CIGNA will cover provided services through April 30 if obtained through an approved Allied Vision provider. As of May 1, CIGNA members must obtain eye-care services from a VSP provider to have these services covered by CIGNA.

To locate a VSP provider, members can call VSP at 1-800-877-7195, TTY 711, or visit VSP's Website at [www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com). For more information on covered services, CIGNA members should refer to their Summary of Benefits or call CIGNA Member Services at 1-800-244-6224, TTY 711. ■

## County reviewing proposals for employee/retiree health-plan carriers

In early March, the county's Department

of Human Resources, in conjunction with Fairfax County Public Schools, issued a request for proposal inviting qualified health carriers to submit proposals on health-plan coverage for employees and retirees. The RFP was issued, as required by county purchasing rules, due to the expiration at the end of this year of the county's current contracts with CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield and with CIGNA HealthCare.

The county and schools are in the process of evaluating pro-

posals from health care providers to provide health plan administrative services to employees and retirees. The county's Selection Advisory Committee is composed of members from the Benefits Advisory Council, who represent a cross section of County departments. The Segal Company, an employee benefits consulting firm, is also assisting the county in evaluating carrier responses. An additional Selection Advisory Committee is considering bids for a possible stand-alone vision plan for county employees and retirees.

The county anticipates selecting and interviewing finalists during May and making recommendations for contract awards early this summer. The effective date of the new contract(s) will be Jan. 1, 2007. Employees will be advised of the contracted health care providers, and any anticipated changes, in advance of the fall open enrollment period, which begins on Oct. 16 and will run through Nov. 17. Watch for more information in future issues of the *Courier*. ■

### Benefits open enrollment dates set for fall

Mark your calendars - open enrollment for benefits will be held this fall from **Oct. 16 through Nov. 17**. Elections made during the open enrollment period will take effect on Jan. 1, 2007 (subject to completion of medical evidence review for certain benefits) and cannot be changed during the year, unless you experience a qualifying change in status, such as a marriage or the birth of a child.

This year's open enrollment is particularly important since it may provide new choices, and possibly different carriers, for health benefits. Look for more information on open enrollment in future issues of the *Courier*. ■

### County Career Fair tomorrow

Don't forget the second annual Career Fair held tomorrow, Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. More than 15 county agencies will have representatives to talk about jobs and careers in their areas.

For more information, visit the Web page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/jobs/jobs.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/jobs/jobs.htm). ■

## Join the JetBlue Volunteer Crew at Celebrate Fairfax!

Come celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Celebrate Fairfax! festival as a volunteer June 9-11. Northern Virginia's largest communitywide festival is looking for more than 1,200 volunteers to support the annual festival of food, fun, music and culture. Members of the JetBlue Volunteer Crew assist with live performances, provide exhibitor relations and information to patrons, support activities in the ExxonMobil Children's Avenue and SciTech Center, or take tickets and monitor admission gates.

JetBlue Volunteer Crew members receive free admission to the festival, a volunteer T-shirt, snack and beverage. Crew members completing shifts can win door prizes, including round-trip air travel on JetBlue Airways.

Celebrate Fairfax! offers convenient online recruiting, where volunteers can search for particular jobs and then sign up for their desired shift. To volunteer, go to [www.celebratefairfax.com](http://www.celebratefairfax.com) and click on "Volunteer." Or contact **Emily Swift** at 703-324-5457, TTY 711, [emily.swift@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:emily.swift@fairfaxcounty.gov).

County employees can volunteer together at the volunteer registration booth. Family members are welcome to volunteer too, but they must be 14 years of age or older. Watch for information in upcoming NewsLinks.

For general information about the Celebrate Fairfax! festival please visit [www.celebratefairfax.com](http://www.celebratefairfax.com) or call 703-324-3247, TTY 711.

Celebrate Fairfax! – summer starts here! ■

## New phone numbers

The county information line has changed from 703-324-3185 to 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329) to make it easier for Fairfax County residents to find the information they need. The county information line, staffed by the Office of Public Affairs, provides general county information from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Also, when providing this phone number for county information, please add that county information is available during non-business hours on the 24-hour automated information line, 703-324-INFO (703-324-4636) and on the county's Web site at [www.fairfax-county.gov](http://www.fairfax-county.gov).

Please call OPA at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, if you have questions. ■

## Jeanne Leins selected Nurse of the Year for 2006

**Jeanne Leins** has been selected as Nurse of the Year for the Fairfax County Health Department. She will be presented with an award honoring her accomplishment on May 5, at the Hilton Garden Inn Fairfax, where public health nurses countywide will be celebrating Nurses Day.

Married, a mother of two and a graduate of Long Island University with a BS in Nursing, Jeanne has been a Health Department employee since September 1998. She has served as both clinic and field nurse at the Joseph Willard Health Center and currently as a member of the Communicable Disease Team at the Health Administration Office in Fairfax, where she consistently exemplifies the standards of public health through her expansive knowledge base and logical manner.

As a role model for public health nursing, Jeanne has served as a trainer and tester for AVATAR, the

Health Department's new management information system. Because of her knowledge of information



Jeanne Leins

systems, she was recognized at the Fairfax County Health Department Honor Awards Program in December 2004. She also was cited at that time for her hand in developing and implementing the Medical Reserve Corp Nurse Recruits Training Pro-

gram and the Emergency Response Training for the Merrifield postal facilities employees.

In March 2005, she received the Virginia Department of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Award. In June 2004, Jeanne was again recognized by Inova Emergency Care Center for her Communicable Disease Education Program.

Jeanne always takes an active role in improving disease reporting and communication between the patients, professional staff and agencies while not losing sight of the individual and the community that the person may infect.

She consistently demonstrates reliability and professionalism balanced with a calm and compassionate nature.

All these qualities in combination make Jeanne Leins the epitome of Public Health Nurse of the Year. ■

- by Althea Solana

# Locating your computer name - Revisited

From the Technical Support Center (TSC) to Desktop Support, we strive to provide the most efficient means of resolving technical difficulties and return you to productivity. The importance of providing your computer name when calling or e-mailing the TSC cannot be over emphasized. This additional step allows the technicians to work on your PC over the network instead of physically visiting your PC, potentially providing faster resolutions to your problems.

Since your computer name does not change, you can locate it and record it for future reference. Below are the required steps based upon your version of Windows. To locate your computer's name in Windows 2000 or XP, follow these steps:

1. Log on to your computer.
2. Right-click on the My Computer icon, on your desktop. From the contextual menu, select Properties.
3. You will see the System Properties window. At the top of the window: Windows XP: Click the Computer Name tab; Windows 2000: Click the Network Identification tab.

4. Locate the Full computer name: ????.FFX.CO.FAIRFAX.VA.US. The portion of the full name we need is where the ? marks are displayed up to the first period.

To locate your computer name if using Windows 98, follow the steps below:

1. Right-click on the Network Neighborhood icon. From the contextual menu, select Properties.

## Tech Tip # 103

Department of Information Technology  
Technology Infrastructure Division  
Technical Support Center  
Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
Tel: 703-222-3535, option 1  
Fax: 703-222-3396  
TTY: 711

2. In the Network window, click the tab at the top of the window that says Identification. Locate Computer Name and find your computer name in the entry box.

Please provide or have available your User ID, location address, floor, room, pod or cubicle number, phone and computer name.

These steps can help us quickly resolving your computer problems. ■

# Sheriff's Honor Guard reflects excellence

The Sheriff's Honor Guard is one of the prides of Fairfax County. The unit was established in 1982 to represent the Sheriff's Office and Fairfax County in parades, ceremonies, competitions and other events that present the colors.

The 26-person unit is com-



manded by Maj. **Buck Watkins**. Sgt. **William Friedman**, who served with the famous Old Guard ceremonial team at Fort Myers, and Sgt. **Dennis Holmes**, who was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard, coordinate practices and performances. The honor guard participates in more than 50 events each year.

The Sheriff's Honor Guard is participating in two competitions in May to which the public is invited.

The first, sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, will be held at 10 a.m., May 6, at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C. The second competition

is the Fourth Annual Fraternal Order of Police Honor Guard Competition, beginning at 8 a.m. (the honor guard will perform first) on Sunday, May 14, at John Marshall Park, between the Federal Court House and the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

For more information on the honor guard, contact Sgt. Friedman, 571-238-8325, TTY 711, or Sgt. Holmes, 703-246-4400, TTY 711. ■

## Courier

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